

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-5 and 33-39 are canceled, claims 6-8, 14-17 and 28 are amended, and claims 40-42 are added. Accordingly, claims 6-32 and 40-42 are pending in this application, claims 9-13 having been withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claim 1 for informalities. By this Amendment, claim 1 is canceled, and therefore the objection is moot.

The Office Action objects to claim 4 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 2. By this Amendment, claim 4 is canceled, thereby rendering this objection moot.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 15-16, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,116 to Lang et al. (hereinafter "Lang"). This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 1-5, and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

The Office Action asserts that Lang shows, in Fig. 11, a first cylindrical lens 604, and a first lens 608 for collimating the partial beam in a horizontal plane and focusing the partial beam in the vertical plane and directing the partial beam to the spot 612. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The description of Fig. 11 in Lang is found in col. 11, lines 45-50, which sets forth that "the first lens 604 is followed by a lenslet array 608 that includes an array of cylindrical lenses for focusing each output 606 along its slow axis. The elements 610 of the lenslet array 608 may be adapted so that the outputs 606 from each individual emitter 602 come to a common focus 612. The lenslet array elements 610 may also be adapted simply to collimate the outputs 606 along their slow axes, or to diverge the outputs 606." Therefore, the lenslet array 608 influences only the slow axis, and, specifically does not "focus the partial beam in

the vertical plane." The feature of the second component of the optical means of focusing the partial beam in the vertical plane is not disclosed or suggested in Lang. Therefore, this feature is recited in newly added claims 40 and 41, which are a combination of original claims 1 and 2, and 1 and 3, respectively.

Newly added independent claim 42 is a combination of original claims 1, 4 and 5. Applicants respectfully submit that Lang does not disclose or suggest a second cylindrical lens (16c) for collimating said beam (7b) wherein said second cylindrical lens (16c) is positioned at a distance from the diode pumping array (1a) corresponding to the focal length of the second cylindrical lens (16c). Therefore, claims 40-42 are patentable over Lang.

Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 18 and 21 depend from claims 40 and 42. Therefore, claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 18 and 21 are patentable in view of their dependence on independent base claims 40 and 42, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-7, 15-16, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lang in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,475,788 to Tomassini et al. (hereinafter "Tomassini"). The Office Action rejects claims 14, 17, 19-20, and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lang in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,317,447 to Baird et al. (hereinafter "Baird"). The Office Action rejects claims 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lang in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,936,984 to Meissner et al. (hereinafter "Meissner"). The Office Action rejects claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,122,097 to Weston et al. (hereinafter "Weston"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of Tomassini, Baird, Meissner or Weston discloses or suggests "a downstream optical means to collimate said partial beam in a horizontal plane, focus said partial beam in the vertical plane, and direct it to said spot," or a second cylindrical lens "positioned at a distance from the diode pumping array (1a)

corresponding to the focal length of the second cylindrical lens." Therefore, none of Tomassini, Baird, Meissner or Weston remedies the deficiency of Lang with respect to claims 40 and 42. Claims 8 and 14-27 depend from claim 40 and claim 28 depends from claim 42. Therefore, claims 8, 14, 17, 19-20 and 22-28 are patentable in view of their dependence on patentable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8, 14, 17, 19-20 and 22-28 be withdrawn.

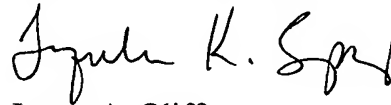
Claims 9-13 depend from claim 8. Based on the allowability of claim 8, Applicants respectfully request that claims 9-13 be rejoined.

Claim 29 has been amended to depend from claim 40. Based on the allowability of claim 40, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of claim 29 and claims 30-32 which depend from claim 29.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 6-32 and 40-42 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 8, 2003

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